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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Caribbean Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be held at Castries, Saint Lucia, from 25 to 27 May 1999

Guidelines and rules of procedure

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and a plan of action aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism, in which, *inter alia*, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was requested to organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

2. In its resolution 53/68 of 3 December 1998, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 1999, including the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

II. Place and dates of the Seminar

3. The Caribbean Regional Seminar will be held at Castries, Saint Lucia, from 25 to 27 May 1999.

III. Purpose of the Seminar

4. The purpose of the Seminar is to assess the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular their constitutional evolution towards self-determination by the year 2000. The Seminar will also identify areas in which the international community could increase and enhance its participation in programmes of assistance and adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensuring the political and sustainable socio-economic development of the Territories concerned.

5. The topics to be considered by the Seminar will assist the Special Committee and the participants in making a realistic evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar will give pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. It will also secure the participation of organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of those Territories and of selected non-governmental organizations with long and established experience in island Territories.

6. The contributions of the participants will serve as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar, which will be carefully studied by the Special Committee with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism by the year 2000.

7. Participants will be required to submit papers, which will include conclusions and recommendations/suggestions on the topics specified in the agenda as they pertain to Non-Self-Governing Territories on the list of the Special Committee.

IV. Agenda of the Seminar

8. The agenda of the Seminar is as follows:

1. Political issues:

   (a) Enhancing the attainment of the right to self-determination by the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

   (b) Options of self-determination available to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) of 14 and 15 December 1960, respectively:

      (i) Independent statehood;

      (ii) Free association with an independent State;

      (iii) Integration with an independent State;

   (c) Constitutional developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories to assist their peoples to attain their right to self-determination.

2. Economic and social issues:

   (a) Economic and social development in the small island Territories and their impact on the realization of the right to self-determination;

   (b) Constraints faced by and development options available to the small island Territories;

   (c) The problems of small, structurally open economies, heavily dependent on imports, a limited number of commodities and highly restricted internal markets;

   (d) Food production: development of small-scale agricultural activities and of fisheries;

   (e) Development of tourism: its impact on the economic and social sectors and on the environment;

   (f) The issue of drug trafficking and money-laundering;

   (g) Development of financial management expertise and of skills necessary to negotiate and manage foreign investments; gaining access to adequate information systems;

   (h) Development of industries and of indigenous technological capacities, and manufacturing for export;

   (i) Human resource development and the consequences of emigration a immigration;

   (j) Implications for the island Territories of issues pertaining to the environment and to development, such as global warming, rise in sea level, sustainable development and Agenda 21;

   (k) International and regional cooperation to mitigate the effects of natural disasters: provision of assistance and coordination of relief preparedness and prevention;

   (l) Role of the specialized agencies, international organizations and regional organizations in the economic and social development of the Territories;

(m) Access of Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system, with a view to identifying areas in which technical and other assistance could be provided;

(n) Particular areas in which regional cooperation requires strengthening both by the Territories concerned and by international agencies: preservation and protection of marine resources from over-exploitation; sea and air transport; disaster preparedness and relief; higher education; research and development; and regional pooling arrangements for sharing special skills and expertise;

(o) Questions relating to the law of the sea and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(p) Impact of international conferences (namely, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992, the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, the World Summit for Social Development, 1995, and the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995) on Non-Self-Governing Territories.

V. Organization of the Seminar

9. The following provisions will govern the organization of the Seminar:

(a) The Seminar will be organized by the Special Committee in accordance with the rules of procedure contained in the annex to the present guidelines;

(b) The Seminar will be conducted by a delegation of the Special Committee consisting of the Chairman and five other members;

(c) The Seminar may be attended by the following:

(i) Representatives of the host Government;

(ii) Representatives of the administering Powers;

(iii) Representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(iv) A representative of the Secretary-General;

(v) Representatives of concerned specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system;

(vi) Representatives of the non-governmental organizations based in the region, in the Non-Self-Governing Territories or in other territorial entities;

(vii) Experts on Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(viii) Appropriate media representatives.

Annex

Rules of procedure

Preamble

The Caribbean Regional Seminar is being held under the terms of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991. The organization of the Seminar and the conduct of its proceedings shall follow the general guidelines set out in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.[a]

Rule 1

Responsibility for conducting the Seminar

The Seminar shall be organized by the Special Committee and conducted by the Chairman of the Special Committee, as the Chairman, with the assistance of the Bureau of the Seminar (see rule 2 (a) below).

Rule 2

Officers of the Seminar

(a) The Chairman shall appoint three Vice-Chairmen, a Rapporteur and a Chairman of the Drafting Group of the Seminar from among the participating members of the Special Committee. These officers shall be given specific responsibilities by the Chairman and shall constitute the Bureau of the Seminar;

(b) The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Seminar, direct its discussions, ensure observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions;

(c) If the Chairman is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-Chairman shall preside over the meeting.

Rule 3

Secretariat

(a) The secretariat of the Special Committee shall service the Seminar;

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements regarding the organization of the Seminar.

Rule 4

Languages

The working language of the Seminar shall be English.

Rule 5

Conduct of business

(a) Decisions shall, as a rule, be taken by consensus. Should a vote be required, only representatives of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall be entitled to vote;

(b) Any procedural question with regard to the conduct of business of the Seminar not covered by the present rules shall be decided upon by the Chairman in consultation with the Bureau of the Seminar.

Rule 6

Participation in the Seminar

Participation in the Seminar shall be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations have been addressed by the Chairman of the Special Committee in accordance with the related decision of the General Assembly[b] and whose names appear on the official list of participants drawn up by the Chairman (see also para. 6 of the present guidelines).

Rule 7

Debates and publicity concerning the Seminar

(a) The meetings of the Seminar shall be held in public unless the Chairman decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private;

(b) Statements on behalf of the Seminar to the information media shall be made by the Chairman. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat shall be responsible for the dissemination of information on the Seminar, including the issuance of press releases covering meetings of the Seminar held in public;

(c) Participating non-governmental organizations shall be represented by the person so invited (see rule 6 above), who may make one general statement on issues within the purview of the Committee's mandate and pertaining to those Territories under its consideration during the course of the Seminar;

(d) The Chairman may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker;

(e) During the course of the discussion, the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the list closed. When there are no speakers, the Chairman shall, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the debate closed.

Rule 8

Records

The Seminar shall have sound recordings of its proceedings, which shall be retained in the archives of the United Nations in accordance with established practice.

Rule 9

Report

The members of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall present a report on the Seminar, the draft of which shall be prepared by the Rapporteur of the Seminar. The Seminar shall entrust to the Chairman of the Special Committee the task of preparing the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on the basis of the information contained in the report. The Chairman shall appoint a drafting group, chaired by one of the members of the delegation of the Special Committee, to assist him in preparing the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar. The report of the Seminar, as well as the draft conclusions and recommendations prepared by the Chairman, shall be submitted to the Special Committee for its recommendations and subsequent submission to the appropriate bodies.

Notes

[a] A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1.

[b] See A/46/634/Rev.1, annex, para. 22 (c).